Message Text

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TAGS: EAIR PL
SUBJ: CHANGE IN POLISH POSITION ON ABC CHARTER FLIGHTS AND
RENEWED POLISH REQUEST FOR CONSULATIONS

1. SUMMARY. THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED A NOTE FROM THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS INFORMING US OF GOP WILLINGNESS TO APPROVE "A CERTAIN NUMBER OF ABC CHARTER FLIGHTS" FOR THE COMING SUMMER SEASON. THE NOTE SPECIFIED SEVERAL CONDITIONS FOR THE ADOPTION OF THIS POLICY AND MAKES CLEAR THAT FURTHER CONSULTATIONS WILL BE REQUIRED IF THE QUESTIONS OF CHARTER FLIGHT POLICY, EXTENSION OF LOW FARE FILINGS INTO THE SUMMER SEASON, AND USE OF VIENNA AS AN INTERMEDIATE STOP FOR PAN AM ARE TO BE RESOLVED. AN INFORMAL TRANLSATION OF THE NOTE IS BEING SENT BY SEPARATE TELEGRAM. END SUMMARY.

2. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE LET US KNOW WHETHER THE DEPARTMENT CAN NOW AGREE TO ENTER INTO FURTHER CONSULTATIONS WITH THE POLES OR WHAT POINTS MUST BE RECONCILED BEFORE CONSULATIONS ARE POSSIBLE. GOP NEGOTIATORS ARE PREPARED TO TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON IF NECESSARY. THE POLISH SIDE IS ALSO ANXIOUS TO FIND OUT WHEN THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CAB WILL APPROVE SALE OF SUPER-APEX FARES THROUGH THE END OF MARCH AS AGREED.

3. THE POLISH SIDE, BOTH IN THE NOTE AND IN OUR DISCUSSIONS AT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HAS SPECIFIED SEVERAL CONDITIONS FOR AGREEING TO APPROVE A "CERTAIN NUMBER" OF ABC CHARTER FLIGHTS. FIRST,

THE LOW TARIFF "SUPER-APEX" FILLINGS WOULD HAVE TO BE EXTENDED BEYOND APRIL 1, 1978, AS REQUESTED BY THE POLISH SIDE. SECONDLY, THE NUMBER OF ABC CHARTERS WOULD BE DETERMINED BY "KNOWN NEEDS" OF THE US-POLAND MARKET AND WOULD HAVE TO BE BASED ON THE RULE OF "EQUAL PARTICIPATION" BY THE CARRIERS OR THE TWO COUNTRIES. THE FLIGHTS WOULD HAVE TO COMPLY WITH EXISTING REGULATIONS, INCLUDING LIMITING CHARTERS TO NO MORE THANT 200 PASSENGERS PER FLIGHT DUE TO CONGESTION AT OKECIE. LASTLY, THE TARIFFS APPLIED BY THE POLISH CARRIER WOULD NOT BE SUBJECT TO SUSPENSION. THE POLISH SIDE WOULD ALSO EXPECT THE USG NOT TO PLACE OBSTACLES IN THE WAY OF REALIZING THE CHARTER FLIGHT PROGRAM, INCLUDING "OFF-LINE" CHARTERS BY LOT.

4. THE NOTE ALSO INDICATES THAT THE POLISH SIDE IS WILLING TO APPROVE SUBSTITUTION OF DAILY 727'S BY PAN AM IN PLACE OF 707'S OR 747'S. IIT STATES, HOWEVER,. THAT PAN AM'S USE OF VIENNA AS AN INTERMEDIATE STOP WOULD CONFER UNQUAL BENEFITS ON PAN AM AND WOULD THEREFORE HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED IN CONNECTION WITH EX-

TENSION OF LOT'S RIGHTS IN THE U.S. THE NOTE ALSO DENIES THAT POLISH AUTHORITIES HAVE REFUSED PAN AM THE RIGHT TO LAND THE 747 AT OKECIE AND MAINTAINS INSTEAD THAT PAN AM HAS CHOSEN TO MODIFY ITS SCHEDULE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RATHER THAN ADJUST TO THE DIFFICULTIES AT OKECIE.

5. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE POLISH POSITION ON ABC
CHARTERS AS OUTLINED ABOVE COULD STILL PROVIDE FOR
TIGHT CONTROL OF CHARTERS, WE THINK THIS IS PROBABLY
THE MOST FORTHCOMING POLISH STEP WHICH CAN BE EXPECTED
BEFORE NEGOTIATIONS. THE CHOICE NOW SEEMS TO BE BETWEEN
NEGOTIATING LESS-THAN-PERFECT UNDERSTANDINGS ON CHARTER
FLIGHTS AND LOW-FARE FILINGS OC#FACING SUMMER SEASON

WITHOUT ABC FLIGHTS AT ALL.

6. IN OUR DISCUSSIONS AT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS WE POINTED OUT THAT, CONTRARY TO THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE POLISH NOTE, OUR POLICY ON OFF-LINE CHARTERS
DID NOT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST LOT SINCE IT WAS BASED ON
RECIPROCITY, WE ALSO SAID THE QUESTTION OF PAN AM'S
USE OF 747'S AT OKECIE DID NOT SEEM SO ONE-SIDED AS
INDICATED IN THE POLISH NOTE. WE POINTED OUT THAT UNTIL
NOW THE GOP HAD NOT UNDERTAKEN INVESTMENTS TO MAKE WIDEBODIED FLUTHTS POSSIBLE. WE SAID THAT THE POLISH
SUGGESTION THAT PAN AM FLY THE JUMBOS AT OFF-PEAK HOURS

WOULD NEGATIVELY AFFECT THE PROFITABILITY OF THE FLIGHTS IN A WAY UNFORESEEN IN THE AGREEMENT. WE ALSO SAID WE UNDERSTOOD THAT PAN AM BELIEVED IT WAS ENTITLED TO SOME COMPENSATION FOR THE EFFECTIVE LOSS OF THIS RIGHT WHETHER OR NOT A FORMAL DENIAL HAD BEEN ISSUED. END COMMENT. **DAVIES**

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED.

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